

GOOD NEWS ABOUT INJUSTICE: Engaging Oppression with Biblical Hope

Reformed Theological Seminary
January 21 – 25, 2008

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Course Description

In a fallen world of brutal injustice, how can 21st century Christians actually advance the kingdom of God around the globe with lives of biblical hope and practical courage?

Concrete answers to this question will emerge as students examine the most significant data, analysis and emerging trends of injustice and oppression confronting the world in the new millennium and apply the immense and profoundly practical biblical teachings on justice to the work of building the kingdom of God. Students will gain a clear understanding of the biblical sin of injustice and make concrete application of the biblical mandate to “seek justice and rescue the oppressed” in the face of 21st century global challenges. Students will learn how the God of Justice regards injustice and oppression, and how followers of Jesus Christ can concretely apply biblical teaching to bring the transforming power of truth and justice to a world of violence and abuse.

Class Outline

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| Monday, Jan 21 | Understanding the Problem: A Fallen World of Injustice
What is “injustice” according to the Bible? What does it concretely look like in the world today? What does it mean to follow Christ in a world of violence and oppression? |
| Tuesday, Jan 22 | The God of Justice in a World of Injustice
What does it mean to say that God is a God of Justice? Why does He allow injustice? Based on God’s character revealed in Scripture, how does He respond to injustice? |
| Wednesday, Jan 23 | Seek Justice, Rescue the Oppressed
The biblical call to “seek justice, rescue the oppressed, defend the orphan and plead for the widow.” How does the God of Justice call His people to respond to a world of injustice? How can a ministry of justice be integrated into other aspects of Christian ministry around the world? |
| Thursday, Jan 24 | Do Justice: A Christian Heritage
Lessons and inspirations from the history of Christian justice ministry. |
| Friday, Jan 25 | The Global Ministry of Justice in the 21st Century
Biblical principles for the practical work of seeking justice and rescuing the oppressed. |

Academic Requirements and Time Investment

Lectures (5 x 2.5 hours)	12.5 hrs
Reading:	
Haugen	10 hrs (196 pp)
Stott	9 hrs (179 pp)
Book Review Essay	10 hrs (1250 wds)
Research for Case Study	15 hrs
Case Study Reflection	20 hrs (2500 wds)
Take-home Exam	<u>13.5 hrs</u> (1700 wds)
TOTAL	90 hrs

Assignments:

1. Reading

All students are to read the two required texts for the course: *Good News About Injustice* by Gary Haugen, and *New Issues Facing Christians Today* by John R.W. Stott.

2. Book Review Essay

Write an essay (1250 wds), reviewing either Good News About Injustice or New Issues Facing Christians Today.

Due: February 1, 2008

3. Case Study Reflection

Students will be provided with 3 extensive fact patterns describing a very specific circumstance of injustice in a country in the developing world. They will be asked to choose one of the cases, and to respond to a series of questions that will test their ability to apply what they have learned in the course (theology, political science, sociology, history, missiology, etc.) to real world conditions.

Due: February 1, 2008

4. Take-home Exam

During the week of the class a list of potential essay questions will be distributed. Students can use these questions as a study guide as they engage with the course topics and study for the exam. On the last day of class each student enrolled for credit will be given a copy of the final exam in a sealed envelope, along with instructions for writing it. Students are on their honor not to open the envelope until they are ready to write the exam.

Due: February 1, 2008

Evaluation

Book Review Essay	20%
Case Study Reflection	40%
Take-home Exam	40%

Required Reading:

Haugen, Gary. *Good News About Injustice*. Downers Grove, InterVarsity Press, 1999.
ISBN: 978-0-8308-2224-9

Stott, John. *New Issues Facing Christians Today*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 1999.
ISBN: 0310252695 ISBN-13: 9780310252696

To pity distress is but human; to relieve it is Godlike.

- Horace Mann

Recommended Reading: Books marked with asterisks (**) are top choices in their categories.

Introductory Books

The Fabric of Faithfulness: Weaving Together Belief and Behavior During the University Years

How do you help Christian students, during one of the most eventful and intense periods of their lives, learn to connect what they believe about the world with how they live in the world? Drawing on the history of ideas, ethics, sociology and a host of examples from contemporary popular culture, Steven Garber vigorously engages just that question.

The Fabric of Faithfulness. Steven Garber. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 1996.

Human Rights & Human Wrongs: Major Issues for a New Century

Social and global issues are constantly being redefined in our rapidly changing world. According to John Stott, it is our responsibility to demonstrate Christ's love through participation in social action. This book challenges believers to make a difference in today's world as they confront the key issues of our time, including: the nuclear threat, environmental concerns, economic inequality, human rights, and moral decay. A study guide is included at the end of the book.

Stott, John R. W. *Human Rights & Human Wrongs: Major Issues for a New Century.* Grand Rapids: Baker Book House, 1999.

Theory and Philosophy of Human Rights

The Human Rights Reader: Major Political Writings, Essays, Speeches, and Documents from the Bible to Present

The Human Rights Reader explores the changing concept and practice of human rights through the writings of religious humanists, classical and modern thinkers, and political speeches. It is comprehensive in both its scope and depth of coverage, as it traces the debate about human rights back to its biblical origins by including passages from both the Old and New Testament, the Koran, and early Buddhist writings.

Ishay, Micheline R. ed. *The Human Rights Reader: Major Political Writings, Essays, Speeches, and Documents from the Bible to Present.* New York: Routledge, 1997.

The Human Rights Reader

This reader is a fascinating anthology, spanning over seven centuries of political and philosophical discussion and dissent, highlighting the milestone events, thinkers, and documents in the evolution and growth of the human rights movement. It examines the works of great thinkers such as Jean-Jacques Rousseau, John Locke, and Thomas Jefferson; documents like the U.S. Constitution, the UN Charter, the Helsinki Agreement; leaders like Jimmy Carter, V.I. Lenin, and Franklin D. Roosevelt; and scholars like Maurice Cranston and Kenneth Minogue.

Laqueur, W., and R. Barry eds. *The Human Rights Reader.* New York: First Meridian Printing, 1990.

****The Evolution of International Human Rights: Visions Seen**

Providing a comprehensive and heavily researched history of human rights ideas and the institutions that implement those ideas, Paul Gordon Lauren's book serves as a helpful reference source for students of human rights. Lauren's history of human rights is presented through the eyes of those who dreamed of what might be and the challenges they faced in fighting injustice in the world. Covering a diverse group of human rights champions such as Martin Luther King, Jr., Mohandas Gandhi, Nelson Mandela, Franz Bernheim,

Florence Nightingale, John Locke and Peter Benenson, Lauren presents the courage and determination of countless numbers of common men and women who helped shape the evolution of human rights. Lauren, Paul Gordon. *The Evolution of Human Rights: Visions Seen*. Pennsylvania: University of Pennsylvania Press, 1998.

Health and Human Rights: A Reader

Noted as one of the top ten human rights books of 1999 by Humanitarian Times. In it Mann explores the inextricable linkage between human rights and health. Health and Human Rights discusses issues that encompass violations of human rights and health concerns such as human genetic variation, maternal-fetal HIV, female genital mutilation, homosexuality and ethnic cleansing. It also addresses human rights violations in Haiti, Africa, and Ecuador. Mann also provides common strategies for moving health and human rights from theory to practice.

Mann, J., et al. *Health and Human Rights: A Reader*. New York: Routledge, 1999.

Guide to International Human Rights Practice 2nd ed.

This guide is a thorough edition of what has become known as the “nuts and bolts” of international human rights law and practice. Hurst Hannum and the contributors to this volume describe, in detail, regimes and procedures developed during the past decade and evaluate the effectiveness of those procedures.

Hannum, Hurst. *Guide to International Human Rights Practice*. 2nd ed. Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press, 1992.

Documentation of Human Rights Abuses

Crimes of War: What the Public Should Know

Crimes of War is an A-Z book that provides an unfiltered view of the worst crimes against man as it explains the principles and history of war crimes. Crimes listed include such abuses as medical experiments on POWs, death squads, systematic rape and genocide, all of which illustrate the severity of man’s capacity to kill. This is a book that personalizes these human rights abuses, provides actual accounts of crimes and the legal framework that is being violated. This book provides information on current affairs in Chechnya, Burundi, Colombia and Indonesia.

Gutman, Roy and D. Rieff ed. *Crimes of War: What the Public Should Know*. New York: W.W. Norton, 1999.

Disposable People: New Slavery in the Global Economy

“It [Slavery] is not just stealing someone’s labor; it is the theft of an entire life.” Bales exposes the modern world of slavery as he reports on his disturbing investigation of conditions in Thailand, Mauritania, Brazil, Pakistan, India, and parts of America and Europe. He reveals the nature of the “new slavery” and how it has adapted to the global economy. Bales interviews actual slaves, slaveholders, and public officials to reveal the lives of slaves. Included in his interviews are conversations with enslaved brick-makers in Pakistan, sex slaves in Thailand, and domestic slaves in France. Bales offers suggestions for how individuals and governments can combat slavery and describes successful antislavery actions taken by international and local organizations. Bales, Kevin. *Disposable People: New Slavery in the Global Economy*. Berkely: University of California Press, 1999.

Their Blood Cries Out: The Untold Story of Persecution Against Christians in the Modern World

Marshall asserts that being *knowledgeable* about international news doesn’t provide adequate information on the state of persecuted Christians. Hundreds of thousands of Christians around the world are oppressed, discriminated against, beaten, tortured, and murdered for their faith. Marshall combines solid documentation and analysis of persecuted Christians around the world. This is a book that will “open the skeptical mind and provoke a sense of moral outrage.”

Marshall, P., and L. Gilbert. *Their Blood Cries Out: The Untold Story of Persecution Against Christians in the Modern World*. Dallas, Texas: World Publishing, 1997.

****Human Rights Watch: World Report 2006**

This annual publication is an introduction to the fundamental principles of human rights. Human Rights Watch publishes a compilation of their investigations of human rights in some seventy countries around the world. "It addresses the human rights practices of governments of all political stripes, of all geopolitical alignments, and of all ethnic and religious persuasions. In internal wars it documents violations by both governments and rebel groups." Human Rights Watch documents and denounces murders, disappearances, torture, arbitrary imprisonment, exile, censorship and other abuses of internationally recognized human rights. It also documents the law on specific social issues such as: women and children's rights, academic freedom, child soldiers, freedom of expression on the internet, lesbian and gay rights and prisons.

Human Rights Watch: World Report 2006. New York: Human Rights Watch, January 2006.

Amnesty International Report 2005

This report documents human rights violations during 2004 in over 149 countries and territories. It also reflects the activities Amnesty International (AI) has undertaken during the year to promote human rights and to campaign against specific human rights abuses. The report is broken into regional summaries and contains a section of Amnesty International's appeals for action. Amnesty International (AI) is a worldwide movement of people who campaign for human rights. AI's work is based on careful research and on the standards agreed by the international community. (*amnesty.org*)

Theology of Human Rights: A Christian Perspective

A Letter From A Birmingham Jail

One of the most well known advocates of human rights, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., writes to eight fellow clergymen of Alabama as he sits in the Birmingham Jail on the charge of parading without a permit. King states that "injustice is like a festering boil that must be cut open and exposed to the light and air before it can be cured." In his letter, King states that Christians and the Church need to be more "courageous than cautious" and to get out from behind the "anesthetizing security of stained-glass windows." King defines the difference between just and unjust laws, the sad state of the church, and the urgency of action as "human progress never rolls in on wheels of inevitability; it comes through the tireless efforts of men willing to be co-workers with God."

Martin, Luther King Jr. *A Letter From A Birmingham Jail.* 1963.

The Idea of Human Rights: Four Inquiries

Perry, inspired by his 1988 trip to El Salvador, writes a personal and scholarly exploration of the idea of human rights. He discusses religious morality to politics and law. He seeks to disentangle the complex idea of human rights by way of four essays. In his essays he addresses the premise that every human being is sacred, the value of discussing human rights, the universality of human rights and "moral relativism." This book addresses disciplines of law, philosophy, religion, and politics. (*back cover*)

Perry, Michael J. *The Idea of Human Rights: Four Inquiries.* New York: Oxford University Press, 1998.

Africa

Long Walk to Freedom: The Autobiography of Nelson Mandela

The winner of the Nobel Peace Prize and leader of South Africa's anti-apartheid movement, Nelson Mandela reveals much of himself in Long Walk to Freedom. Most of his autobiography was written secretly while he was imprisoned for 27 years on Robben Island by South Africa's apartheid regime. Mandela discloses a strong and generous spirit that refused to be broken under the most trying circumstances. (*back cover*)

Mandela, Nelson. *Long Walk to Freedom: The Autobiography of Nelson Mandela.* Boston: Little, Brown and Company, 1994.

The Passing Summer: A South African Pilgrimage in the Politics of Love

Michael Cassidy has a deep love for his country, South Africa. In this book he takes you through his own "pilgrim's progress" as he becomes a Christian and then dedicates his life to the work and ministry of Christ. Cassidy provides an historical account of South Africa providing details of historical events that enable the reader to see the causes and effects of continual oppression. Much of the book is dedicated to offering practical steps toward establishing balance between the gospel and human needs. Cassidy breaks through the dichotomy of politics and evangelism declaring that it is not acceptable for Christians to be lopsided in their faith.

Cassidy, Michael. *The Passing Summer: A South African Pilgrimage in the Politics of Love*. London: Hodder & Stoughton, 1989.

We Wish to Inform You That Tomorrow We Will be Killed With Our Families: Stories from Rwanda

Hutus kill Tutsis, then Tutsis kill Hutus--if that's really all there is to it, then no wonder we can't be bothered with it," Philip Gourevitch writes, imagining the response of somebody in a country far from the ethnic strife and mass killings of Rwanda. But the situation is not so simple, and in this complex and wrenching book, he explains why the Rwandan genocide should not be written off as just another tribal dispute. The "stories" in this book's subtitle are both the author's, as he repeatedly visits this tiny country in an attempt to make sense of what has happened, and those of the people he interviews. (*amazon.com*)

Gourevitch, Peter. *We Wish to Inform You*. New York: Farrar, Straus, and Giroux, 1998.

Season of Blood: A Rwandan Journey

Fergal Keane, an Irish journalist and former BBC correspondent in South Africa, was sent in 1994 to cover the war in Rwanda that had left one million Tutsis dead, most of them gruesomely hacked to death by their Hutu neighbors. The power of this account lies in Keane's profound emotional shock at barely imaginable cruelty and in the personal testimony of the survivors he interviewed. Like many familiar with Africa, he rejects the too easy explanation of "tribal hatred," with its assumption that the problem is intractable and internal. He emphasizes instead the economic and class disparities driving a political bloodlust, reminiscent perhaps of revolutionary France. Even though understanding such atrocity seems out of reach, Keane bears eloquent witness to evil. (*amazon.com*)

Keane, Fergal. *Season of Blood: A Rwandan Journey*. England: Penguin Books, 1995.

King Leopold's Ghost

Adam Hochschild writes that King Leopold of Belgium did not much care for his native land or his subjects, all of which he dismissed as "small country, small people." Even so, King Leopold searched the globe to find a colony for Belgium, frantic that the scramble of other European powers for overseas dominions in Africa and Asia would become the Belgian Congo. Leopold set about establishing a rule of terror that would culminate in the deaths of 4 to 8 million indigenous people, "a death toll," Hochschild writes, "of Holocaust dimensions." Those who survived went to work for the Belgian king, who salted away billions of dollars in hidden bank accounts throughout the world. Hochschild's book of historical inquiry, draws heavily on eyewitness accounts of the colonialists' savagery, bringing this little-studied episode in European and African history into new light.

Hochschild, Adam. *King Leopold's Ghost*. Boston: Mariner Books, 1999.

****Roots**

An eloquent testimony of the unconquerable human spirit. *Roots* begins with a birth in 1750, in an African village; it ends seven generations later at the Arkansas funeral of a black professor whose children are a teacher, a Navy architect, an assistant director of the U.S. Information Agency, and an author. The author is Alex Haley. *Roots* not only speaks of the horrific abuse that Africans endured but of a rich cultural heritage that slavery tried to take away from them.

Haley, Alex. *Roots: The Saga of an American Family*. New York: Doubleday, 1976.

Asia

Eyes of the Tailless Animals: Prison Memoirs of a North Korean Woman

“At the moment the officer announced my release in front of the prisoners, the eyes of all six thousand tailless animals stared at me. Their eyes were pleading. When you get out of prison, be a witness for us.” This book is a personal testimony of Soom Ok Lee’s experience in prison in North Korea. She relates terrifying accounts of unimaginable inhumane torture, and the hope that she found in the love of Christ.

Lee, Soon Ok. *Eyes of the Tailless Animals: Prison Memoirs of a North Korean Woman*. Living Sacrifice Book Company, 1999

****The Rape of Nanking: The Forgotten Holocaust of World War II**

China has endured much hardship in its history. The Rape of Nanking recounts the horrible events in this eastern Chinese city that has been under Japanese occupation in the late 1930s. Nanking, she writes, served as a kind of laboratory in which Japanese soldiers were taught to slaughter unarmed, unresisting civilians, as they would later do throughout Asia. Reducing their victims to insects and animals, the Japanese commanders orchestrated a campaign in which several hundred thousand Chinese soldiers and noncombatants alike were killed. More than just narrating the details of massive violence, *The Rape of Nanking* tells the story from three perspectives: the Japanese soldiers who performed it, the Chinese civilians who endured it, and the group of Europeans and Americans who refused to abandon the city and thus created a safety zone that saved almost 300,000 Chinese. Chang characterizes the “conspiracy of silence” that persists today, as a “second rape.” (amazon.com)

Chang, Iris. *The Rape of Nanking: The Forgotten Holocaust of World War II*. USA: Penguin Books, 1997.

Middle East

****Justice and Only Justice**

This captivating bestseller, by a clergyman and leader of the Palestine Christian community, examines the problems and prospects for Palestinians, Jews, and Christians in the Middle East. As the conflict between Israel and Palestine remains in the front pages of the daily paper, it is crucial to understand the political, religious and historical dimension of the Israel Palestine. Ateek uses the Bible to define his foundational beliefs and purports, “Only justice rooted in compassion can save us from repeating the cycle of violence.”

Ateek, Naim S. *Justice and Only Justice*. New York: Orbis, 1989.

Guests of the Sheik : An Ethnography of an Iraqi Village

Elizabeth Warnock Fernea has written a vastly informative ethnographic study of her two-year stay in the tiny rural village of El Nahra in southern Iraq during the early 1950s. To help her anthropologist husband gather data, Mrs. Farea agreed to dress only in the all-enveloping black veils of the women of the harem. Although she shared a small mud-brick cottage with her husband, her daily life was spent only with the women of the town, for in this polygamous society there existed no social communication between the sexes. This volume gives a unique insight into a part of Middle Eastern life seldom seen by the West—a life of the women who have no outwardly apparent role in society, but whose thoughts and ideas are now emerging with force and helping to shape modern Middle Eastern Society.

Fernea, Elizabeth Warnock. *Guests of the Sheik: An Ethnography of an Iraqi Village*. New York: Doubleday, 1965.

Walking the Red Line: Israelis in Search of Justice for Palestine

Deena Hurwitz, ed. *Walking the Red Line: Israelis in Search of Justice for Palestine*. Philadelphia, PA: New Society Publishers, 1992.

The Hidden Face of Eve

This is a personal and often disturbing account of growing up into womanhood in the Islamic world. Nawal Sa’dawi, an Egyptian physician and writer, ranges over a host of topics - from sexual aggression against

female children and the circumcision of young girls, to prostitution, sexual relationships, marriage and divorce. She relates women's position in the Middle East to the struggles between the left and right in Islam, and shows how the political priorities of Western and Third World women differ. (arabworldbooks.com)
Sa'dawi, Nawal. *The Hidden Face of Eve: Women in the Arab World*. St. Martin's Press, Inc., 1997.

Price of Honor: Muslim Women Lift the Veil of Silence on the Islamic World

Jan Goodwin set out to investigate the status of women in 10 Islamic countries after being shocked and appalled at the brutal treatment of a nine-year-old girl she befriended while living in Peshawar, a frontier town on the border of Pakistan and Afghanistan. Her findings are profoundly disturbing and center on the enormous influence of radical Islamic fundamentalists, who have created a system of "gender apartheid" that has turned women into virtual prisoners. After providing deft descriptions of the current atmosphere in each country, she relates shocking stories of restriction, cruelty, abuse, and violence. Most Islamic women now live severely circumscribed lives. They are forbidden to go out without male chaperons and face harsh jail terms, or even death, for such "crimes" as failing to be fully concealed in a chador or other heavy, dark garments. Worse, of course, are the frequent beatings and rapes, many committed by the police. Men can divorce their wives secretly and are free to have several wives, while women are kept cloistered at home, suffering from depression and a host of ailments associated with lack of sunshine and exercise. This tragic state of affairs is all the more maddening given the fact that none of the more flagrant abuses have any basis in the Koran, which teaches respect for women as equal and invaluable partners in Muslim society. Goodwin takes pains to present balanced and well-documented information, making her revelations all the more alarming.

(Donna Seaman, amazon.com)

Goodwin, Jan. *Price of Honor: Muslim Women Lift the Veil of Silence on the Islamic World*. Boston: Little, Brown, 1994.

Eastern Europe

Man's Search for Meaning

Internationally renowned psychiatrist Viktor E. Frankl endured years of unspeakable horror in Nazi death camps. During, and partly because of, his suffering, Dr. Frankl developed a revolutionary approach to psychotherapy known as logotherapy. At the core of his theory is the belief that man's primary motivational force is his search for meaning. (Back cover)

The book begins with Frankl's deeply personal essay of his imprisonment in Auschwitz and other concentration camps for five years. He writes of his struggle to live and to find reason for living. The second half of the book "Logotherapy in a Nutshell" describes the psychotherapy method that Frankl pioneers as a result of his experiences in the concentration camps. Frankl writes, "Our generation is realistic, for we have come to know man as he really is. After all, man is the being who invented the gas chambers of Auschwitz; however, he is also that being who entered those gas chambers upright, with the Lord's Prayer or the Shema Yisrael on his lips." Man's Search for Meaning is a very human book that attempts to make sense or at least find reason in the most horrendous accounts of human violations. (amazon.com)

Frankl, Viktor E. *Man's Search for Meaning*. New York: WSP, 1984.

Exit into History: A Journey Through the New Eastern Europe

The author, an American who left Poland at age 13, is a sympathetic visitor to the countries she describes: Poland, Czechoslovakia, Hungary, Romania, and Bulgaria. Hoffman is both hopeful about the prospects of democracy and nostalgic for the warmth that once made her feel at home. The author guides the reader to a comparison of the different textures of life in what the former Soviet Union at one time referred to as the "hostile fraternal nations." Especially interesting are Hoffman's encounters with her acquaintances in Poland, which share a Jewish perspective on anti-Semitism in the new Europe.

Hoffman, Eva. *Exit into History: A Journey Through the New Eastern Europe*. USA: Penguin Books, 1993.

Balkan Ghosts: A Journey Through History

Robert Kaplan writes from the perspective of a seasoned foreign correspondent. From the assassination that triggered World War I to the ethnic warfare now sweeping Serbia, Bosnia, and Croatia, the Balkans have been the crucible of the twentieth century, the place where terrorism and genocide first became tools of policy. This enthralling and often chilling political travelogue fully deciphers the Balkans' ancient passions and intractable hatreds for outsiders. For as Kaplan travels among the vibrantly-adorned churches and soul-destroying slums of the former Yugoslavia, Albania, Romania, Bulgaria, and Greece, he allows us to see the region's history as a time warp in which Slobodan Milosevic becomes the reincarnation of a fourteenth-century Serbian martyr; Nicolae Ceausescu is called "Drac," or "the Devil"; and the one-time Soviet Union turns out to be a continuation of the Ottoman Empire.

(amazon.com)

Kaplan, Robert. *Balkan Ghosts: A Journey Through History*. New York: St. Martin's Press, 1993.

****Night**

Elie Wiesel, a Nobel laureate, writes about an attempt to find meaning in the horror of the Holocaust. This is the story of how a cultured people turned to genocide and how the rest of the world remained silent in the face of genocide. Though *Night* is not an autobiographical account of Wiesel's life, it is based closely on his own experiences in Birkenau, Auschwitz and Buchenwald. The protagonist of *Night* is a scholarly teenager who carries with him an overwhelming sense of guilt-- having survived the genocidal campaign that killed his family, his innocence and his God.

Wiesel, Elie. *Night*. New York: Bantam Books, 1982.

1937: Stalin's Year of Terror

1937 describes what happened to Stalin's opponents and why. Rogovin puts the reader directly in the courtrooms, jail cells, homes and conversations of the persecuted. Rogovin gives voice to those who were silenced over 60 years ago and provides an impeccable knowledge of Soviet history and contemporary events and explains why this knowledge is relevant today.

Rogovin, Vadim Z. *1937: Stalin's Year of Terror*. Michigan: Mehring Books, Inc., 1998.

The Great Terror: A Reassessment

Robert Conquest blends profound research with evocative prose, providing not only an authoritative account of Stalin's purges, but also a compelling and eloquent chronicle of one of this century's most tragic events.

(amazon.com)

Conquest, Robert. *The Great Terror: A Reassessment*. New York: Oxford University Press, 1991.

South America

****Crisis and Hope In Latin America: . . . an Evangelical Perspective**

Crisis and hope in Latin America is panoramic yet thorough. Taylor examines the historical, soci-political and religious backgrounds of Latin America. In Part 2, Nunez probes issues and challenges issues such as post-conciliar Roman Catholicism, liberation theology, the charismatic movement, contextualization and evangelical social responsibility. In Part 3 both authors update their original material, and Taylor concludes by exploring the implications of this book for the church, mission agencies and expatriate missionaries in Latin America. (back cover)

Nunez, E. A., and W.D. Taylor. *Crisis and Hope In Latin America: . . . an Evangelical Perspective*. Chicago: WEF, 1989.

The Massacre at El Mozote: A Parable of the Cold War

What compelled the army to decapitate infants, hang children and wipe out an entire village of 800 civilians? Why did the U.S. support a government that massacred nuns, priests, and social workers? Mark Danner, a journalist, brings attention to the barbarity that was committed against the people in El Mozote, a remote

Salvadoran village and the role that the U.S. government played. Danner tells the truth about this dark episode of human rights violations and the U.S.'s aid to its allies.

Danner, Mark. *The Massacre at El Mozote: A Parable of the Cold War*. New York: Vintage Books, 1993.

Novels

****Cry, the Beloved Country**

This is a novel that will both capture your attention and your emotions. *Cry, the Beloved Country* is a beautifully told and profoundly compassionate story of the Zulu pastor Stephen Kumalo and his son Absalom, set in the troubled and changing South Africa of the 1940's. Paton allows you to feel the beauty of South Africa while portraying the historical effects of racial inequality and injustice. It will touch your heart and give you a renewed faith in the dignity of mankind.

Paton, Alan. *Cry, the Beloved Country*. New York: Scribner Paperback Fiction, 1948.

Crime and Punishment

A desperate young man plans the perfect crime—the murder of a despicable pawnbroker, an old woman that no one loves and no one will mourn. Is it not just, he reasons, for a man of genius to commit such a crime, to transgress moral law—if it will ultimately benefit humanity? So begins one of the greatest novels ever written: a powerful psychological study, a terrifying murder mystery, and a fascinating detective thriller infused with philosophical, religious and social commentary. Raskolnikow, an impoverished student living in a garret in the gloomy slums of St. Petersburg, carries out his grotesque scheme and plunges into a hell of persecution, madness and terror. *Crime and Punishment* takes the reader on a journey into the darkest recesses of the criminal and depraved mind and exposes the soul of a man possessed by both good and evil... a man who cannot escape his own conscience. (*The publisher*)

Dostoevsky, Fyodor. *Crime and Punishment*. New York: Bantam Books, 1981.

One Day in the Life of Ivan Denisovich

Solzhenitsyn's book is the simply told story of a typical, grueling day of the character's life in a forced labor camp in Siberia. The novel soon became one of the most significant and outspoken literary documents ever to come out of Soviet Russia. It's a brutal depiction of life in a Stalinist camp and a moving tribute to man's triumph of will over relentless dehumanization.

Solzhenitsyn, Alexander. *One Day in the Life of Ivan Denisovich*. New York: New American Library, 1993.

Suggested Videos

A Dry White Season

Schoolteacher Ben du Toit ([Donald Sutherland](#)) has been insulated all his life from the horrors of apartheid in his native South Africa. Perhaps he really didn't want to know. When the son of his black gardener is arrested and beaten as a result of a schoolboy protest in Soweto, at first he imagines the police must have had their reasons. However, the boy is picked up again, and this time he doesn't come back. Ben promises his servant that he will look into the incident, and discovers that the boy was killed simply to gratify the violent urges of Captain Stolz, a "special branch" policeman. At long last he has gotten a glimpse into the truly arbitrary and violent nature of the system he has so long benefitted from, and he hires Ian Mackenzie to prosecute the killer. It is a foregone conclusion that Stolz will not be punished, but Mackenzie rises to new heights of withering sarcasm and irony in the courtroom. This situation turns Ben into a radical firebrand, which alienates him from his white friends and neighbors, as well as members of his family.

([allmovie.com](#))

Directed by Euzhan Palcy. *A Dry White Season*. 1989.

Gandhi

Sir Richard Attenborough's 1982 multiple-Oscar winner (including Best Picture, Best Director, and Best Actor for Ben Kingsley) is an engrossing, reverential look at the life of Mohandas K. Gandhi, who introduced

the doctrine of nonviolent resistance to the colonized people of India and who ultimately gained the nation its independence. Kingsley is magnificent as Gandhi as he changes over the course of the three-hour film from an insignificant lawyer to an international leader and symbol. Strong on history (the historic division between India and Pakistan, still a huge problem today, can be seen in its formative stages here) as well as character and ideas, this is a fine film.

(amazon.com)

Directed by Richard Attenborough. *Gandhi*. 1982.

Cry Freedom

Richard Attenborough directed this dramatic story, based on actual events, about the friendship between two men struggling against apartheid in South Africa in the 1970s. Donald Woods is a white liberal journalist in South Africa who begins to follow the activities of Stephen Biko, a courageous and outspoken black anti-apartheid activist. Woods and his wife Wendy get to know Biko, and they become friends, until Biko is brutally murdered at the hands of government troops in 1977 for his activities against the country's repression of the black majority population. Donald is shocked and appalled by Biko's murder and determined that the truth about Biko will become known to the world; eventually, Donald and Wendy Woods and their children must leave South Africa (and nearly everything they have) as they spread the word about Biko's life and death to ensure that he did not die in vain.

(allmovie.com)

Directed by Richard Attenborough. *Cry Freedom*. 1987

Breaker Morant

Breaker Morant is one of the most acclaimed Australian films, telling a powerful tale of wartime betrayal and injustice. Henry "Breaker" Morant (Edward Woodward) is an Englishman living in Australia at the end of the 19th century. When war breaks out in 1899 between Britain and the Boers (descendants of Dutch colonists), Morant and a number of Australians volunteer for duty and are absorbed into the non-regular units of the British army. Acting under orders from his commanders, Morant oversees the execution of several Boer prisoners; it turns out that one of them was German, and in order to keep the peace with Germany, Britain agrees to courtmartial Morant and two other soldiers, sentencing two to death and one to life imprisonment. Based on a play by Kenneth Ross, Bruce Beresford's film is powerfully filmed and acted and has become a classic anti-war movie since its 1980 release; the script (co-written by Beresford) was nominated for an Academy Award.

(allmovie.com)

Directed by Bruce Beresford. *Breaker Morant*. 1980.

The Bandit Queen

The Bandit Queen, based on the true story of legendary female warrior Phoolan Devi, is a confrontational epic that paints a far different picture of India from other art-house productions. Devi is married at age 11, abandoned by her husband when she resists his advances, and turned into a social outcast who, at one point, is gang-raped by the upper-caste men of one village. She later gets her revenge by organizing a massacre that leaves 20 villagers dead. Devi ultimately leads a band of latterday Robin Hoods on bold raids against landowners in Central India during the late 1970s and early 1980s, often taking their spoils and redistributing them to poor tenant farmers. By the time she is arrested in 1983, Devi has become a folk hero, especially to the women who live in rural India's brutally patriarchal society. A full-fledged commercial production, handsomely produced and directed by talented Indian filmmaker [Shekhar Kapur](#), [Bandit Queen](#) painfully exposes a controversial aspect of Indian culture, while providing a triumphant portrait of female empowerment.

(allmovie.com)

Directed by Shekhar Kapur. *The Bandit Queen*. 1994.

Amistad

This [Steven Spielberg](#)-directed exploration into a long-ago episode in African-American history recounts the trial that followed the 1839 rebellion aboard the Spanish slave ship Amistad and captures the complex

political maneuverings set in motion by the event. Filmed in New England and Puerto Rico, the 152-minute drama opens with a pre-credit sequence showing Cinque and the other Africans in a violent takeover of the Amistad. Captured, they are imprisoned in New England where former slave Theodore Joadson, viewing the rebels as "freedom fighters," approaches property lawyer Baldwin who attempts to prove the Africans were "stolen goods" because they were kidnapped. Running for re-election, President Martin Van Buren overturns the lower court's decision in favor of the Africans. Former President John Quincy Adams is reluctant to become involved, but when the case moves on to the Supreme Court, Adams stirs emotions with a powerful defense. The storyline occasionally cuts away to Spain where the young Queen Isabella plays with dolls; she later debated the Amistad case with seven U.S. presidents. The character portrayed by is a fictional composite of several historical figures.

(allmovie.com)

Directed by Steven Spielberg. *Amistad*. 1997.

Missing

[Costa-Gavras](#)'s tense political drama is set in an unspecified South American country, in the throes of a military coup. American activist Charles Horman, who has been a thorn in the side of the country's military ever since his arrival, suddenly disappears. In trying to find out what has happened, his wife Beth is stonewalled, not only by the ruling junta but by the American consulate. His father, staunchly patriotic Ed Horman, joins Beth in her search. Ed and his daughter-in-law have never seen eye to eye politically, and he refuses to entertain the notion that his son's disappearance might be part of a larger conspiracy or cover-up. But as the days grow into weeks, Ed comes to the shattering conclusion that he and his family have been betrayed by the American government, on behalf of the "friendly" South American dictator who holds his people in a grip of iron. Adapted by Costa-Gavras and Donald E. Stewart from a book by Thomas Hauser, [Missing](#) was inspired by the true story of the late Charles Horman.

(allmovie.com)

Directed by Constantine Costa-Gavras. *Missing*. 1982.

The Official Story

Luis Puenzo's shattering 1985 story about the collision of middle-class aspirations and government lies in Argentina packs a wallop a viewer never forgets. A happy couple (Norma Aleandro and Hector Alterio) enamored of their careers (she's a teacher proffering pro-government revisionist history, he's a successful entrepreneur) are made all the more joyous by the fulfilling presence of an adopted baby in their lives. In time, however, Aleandro's character begins to suspect that the child was taken from a woman who is among Argentina's "disappeared," i.e., a likely victim of violent political repression. With that genie out of the bottle, everything about the couple's life together begins to look doctored and glossed-over to her, including the marriage itself. Puenzo (*Old Gringo*) leads the mounting suspicion and conflict between husband and wife toward an astonishing eruption of suppressed feelings, a release of buried truths that is more than the story of one wobbly marital union. It is an allegory for a nation fearing its recent past. A powerful experience.

(amazon.com)

Directed by Luis Puenzo. *The Official Story*. 1985.